



Bee City Application

Town of Collingwood
Ontario

Mayor Brian Saunderson

Pollinate Collingwood (contact Jessica Lehr)

Community Organization working with the Town and other local organizations

5 Burnside Court

Collingwood Ontario

L9Y 4R7

pollinatecollingwood@gmail.com or lehr.imj@gmail.com

Cell (705) 444-7008 (Jessica Lehr)

Bee City Pollinator Team Members

Jessica Lehr

Pollinate Collingwood

lehr.jmj@gmail.com

Jeff Young

Pollinate Collingwood

jeff44young@gmail.com

Carrington Lauzon	Pollinate Collingwood	carrington.lauzon@hotmail.ca
Shannon McCready	Pollinate Collingwood	shanandmelissa@gmail.com
Kathleen Knoll	Blue Mountain Watershed Trust	choclily@sympatico.ca
Kathy Ondercin	Collingwood BIA	piascollingwood@gmail.com
Wendy Martin	Town of Collingwood	wmartin@collingwood.ca
Kerri MacDonald	Environment Network	info@environmentnetwork.org

Jessica Lehr (volunteer) lehr.jmj@gmail.com 705-444-7008

Dean Collver (Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, Collingwood)

dcollver@collingwood.ca 705-445-1030x3238

Collingwood has been taking proactive initiatives toward supporting native pollinators and the elimination and reduction of pesticides and herbicides for several decades. On January 1, 2008 the Town of Collingwood passed a bylaw banning pesticide use, a time before the provincial laws were created. The Town now follows the Provincial Pesticides Act and standards, which also includes herbicide use. A Hazardous Vegetation Management Plan outlines procedures for the Town working with perilous, detrimental, nuisance and invasive vegetation on public lands.

In October 2019 the Town of Collingwood declared recognition of the climate crisis. This declaration is supported by past Town actions in regards to using native pollinator plants and native trees and will help guide public land management in the future.

This past October, 100 native trees and shrubs were planted at Fisher Field as part of the 1000 tree donation that was made to the Town from the DiLorenzo Family. These native trees and shrubs will also be planted along trails in town and on residential properties over the next four years.

Public naturalized areas are being encouraged through native plantings and naturalization at some local parks, including Mountaincroft Park and Riverside Park. The Town and Environment Network worked together to build a bioswale, including the planting of native plant species, at Sunset Point Park in 2015.

In addition to the aforementioned public spaces, Awen' Gathering Place deserves special mention because the project was a monumental event symbolizing the Town's commitment to encouraging re-naturalized spaces. The site is a former landfill that was decommissioned, studied for residual emissions, and finally certified to allow the installation of the Gathering Place (a recognition of First Nations values regarding the natural environment). The re-naturalized area is roughly 275 metres in circumference, and roughly 5600 square metres in area.

The Town's Communication officer has been supportive of providing the media outlets with educational materials and articles about the local native pollinator garden initiative under Pollinate Collingwood.

Blue Mountain Watershed Trust (BMWT), formed in 1994 and incorporated in 1995, has been instrumental in protecting and preserving wild spaces in Collingwood and the surrounding area. Ecosystem rehabilitation is built into their projects. During the autumn of 2020, for example, the rehabilitation of Black Ash Creek included planting approximately 100 native shrubs and trees. As a community initiative, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) and St. Mary's School assisted with the planting. BMWT has a Watershed Action Group that communicates with local golf courses about neonicotinoids.

Environment Network, a not-for-profit non-governmental organization, was formed in 1993 to support the remedial action plan for the Collingwood Harbour and has expanded to support 'greening' of the community of Collingwood. In relation to supporting native pollinator gardening and supporting native pollinators, the following has been undertaken: Enerescaping Program (visiting homeowners to assist in identifying areas of their property where plantings could provide greater energy savings); Organic (Ecological) Gardening Action Kits (100 kits containing seeds, diatomaceous earth, insecticidal soap, mineral rock and coupons for other non-chemical products were assembled and sold); Natural Landscaping Workshops (provided two workshops, one introductory and one advanced, on how to make a natural garden to attract birds, butterflies and wildlife using natural landscaping ideas and native plants); Green Garden Visits (visit homes and evaluate their gardens and suggest ways to make them more environmentally friendly); Depave Project (fruiting trees planted at Heritage Park depave site, as well as supported both community and a native plant garden); Fisher Field (planted native plant species with Envision Tatham around the pond at Fisher Field); Bioswale at Sunset Point (created and used native plants for planting site); and Day Camp (always includes discussion about native plants, pollinators and gardens).

Pollinate Collingwood, a volunteer organization, was formed in 2020 to locally implement the David Suzuki Foundation Butterflyway Project. A total of 24 native pollinator gardens were put in, with 15 being on either community or local business properties and 9 being at local schools. In addition to this, Pollinate Collingwood created educational signage and youth activity sheets (designed by eARTh Revival). The activity sheets were available through the online Camp Collingwood's garden and flight weeks during the summer of 2020. Pollinate Collingwood ran a successful small native plant sale which gave locals easy access to native pollinator plants. The group has an active public Facebook Group called Pollinate Collingwood which provides a platform for people to share and learn from others about local pollinator activities and how to help native pollinators.

eARTh Revival, a local native plant and stewardship business, is expanding their reach in the Collingwood area and sells packets of native seeds and seedlings to those interested. In the past two years they have grown over 700 plants which have been planted in our local ecosystem.

A) Funding chart

- B) 1. The Town of Collingwood has committed to the planting of the two "Welcome to Collingwood" gardens and several Town planters, located along a St. Marie Street parking lot, with native pollinator plants for 2021. There are native plants around the Awen' Gathering Place which the Town is committed to maintaining. This year it is planned for the Awen' Gathering Place, entering its third year since establishment, to be overseeded with native plant material to encourage further diversified growth.

Continuing with past practices, the Town will continue following their vegetation management plan for hazardous vegetation and pesticide use.

The Town will continue with their native tree planting program, as outlined through the DiLorenzo tree donation.

All new commercial and residential developments in Town require native plants and trees to be installed in their landscape. The Town will continue to leave natural drainage ditches unmown and add native plant material as opportunities arise.

BMWT will continue to rehabilitate local ecosystems with native trees and shrubs.

Any project that Environment Network undertakes that is related to green space or restoration work will include native pollinator plants within it.

The Collingwood Business Improvement Association (BIA) undertook a Master Garden Plan review for their 35 beds within the Town of Collingwood. The draft plan includes recommendations that gardens along parking lot frontages be converted to native pollinator and pollinator gardens as they cover a large planting area, are in close proximity to residential gardens, and have calmer vehicular traffic conditions and less pedestrian traffic. There is the intent to plant the North Pine Street planter box with native pollinator plants in 2021. Also mentioned in the plan is support of the collaboration with Pollinate Collingwood and Bee City Canada. The Draft Master Garden Plan is in a review stage through the BIA and the Town. Following review, it will go to the BIA membership and public for input.

Pollinate Collingwood will continue dialogue with existing hosts of community, business and school gardens regarding proper four season care of their gardens. The group will look to create additional opportunities to link with local residents to acknowledge and/or create native pollinator gardens. Four more Butterflyway gardens will be put in at senior residences, community homes and gardens.

Collingwood Collegiate Institute, through the Construction Specialist High School Skills Major, has committed to creating laser cut wood signs with the Pollinate Collingwood logo. These donated signs will be sold locally in support of planting native pollinator species in community gardens (e.g., senior residence, community support buildings, etc.). Residents will be able to buy these signs to place in their native garden. Money from the signs will be donated back to the skills program and to purchasing plants and educational materials for the community gardens and special events. The signs will also allow word of the initiative to spread throughout town by their visual presence.

Pollinate Collingwood will work with Environment Network and BMWT to provide a native plant and tree sale, thereby linking locals with easy access to native pollinator plants and support information, including the lack of need for pesticide or herbicide use.

Through the DiLorenzo donation the Town will be collaborating with the NVCA to involve the community in a tree planting event. As well this donation will allow the Town to provide larger trees to residents to plant on their property and increase the urban forest.

eARTh Revival is currently working on a grant funded Eco-Leadership Journey program with WWF-Canada to increase biodiversity and education around ecosystems health with native plants and insects. In January 2021 there will be free native seeds available at three local libraries. In addition, seeds, growing materials and educational resources will be given to the local Forest Schools to foster youth environmental stewardship.

2. Residents, businesses and organizations will continue to be educated via: news articles through Collingwood Today and Collingwood Connection; social media posts from the Town of Collingwood and the Collingwood Public Library; Pollinate Collingwood; BMWT; and Experience Collingwood.

New for 2021 volunteers from Pollinate Collingwood would seek to provide educational interviews with the local radio stations, the Peak FM and 97.7FM.

In addition to these sources of education, there is the intent to run both a native plant sale and native tree sale, both of which will provide educational opportunities to the public.

A rain barrel event, which will offer further opportunities to provide educational opportunities, is also to be run as a joint initiative with BMWT and Environment Network.

Pollinate Collingwood, through eARTh Revival, will continue to create education sheets and signs. A recommended list of native pollinator and shade plants will be created for 2021 for locals. Tips for planting a garden and caring for a four season native pollinator garden will also be highlighted.

To help reach youth and students, curriculum based projects will be created and distributed. Educational crafts and activities will also be provided to Camp Collingwood

in 2021.

Native plant seed packets will be distributed to local youth in the late winter/early spring of 2021. Distribution of the seeds, educational materials and an online workshop will be provided by Pollinate Collingwood and the \$1000 of seeds is donated by the DiLorenzo Family.

The BIA has committed to assisting with educational initiatives for 2021.

The Town of Collingwood staff portal website will provide educational materials for staff to use to develop their own native garden. Town staff working in the gardens will be educated about native plants as they maintain the gardens throughout the season.

3. For the third week of June (Pollinator Week), there is the commitment to two special events: a special education event and a family event.

For the special event an outdoor venue will be selected to host a variety of speakers, including Kate Harries of Return of the Native garden centre, Scott Martin of WILD Canada to discuss native gardening techniques, Rodney Fuentes of the Monarch Ultra, and entomologist Chris Rickard to introduce residents to some of our native pollinators. There will be opportunities for displays from BMWT, Environment Network, Collingwood Climate Action Team, and others.

A family event will be held on the Saturday at the Collingwood Farmers Market, which is located in central Collingwood. Educational and fun activities will be offered to the families, as well as an opportunity to take home either a plant or some seeds. There will be support from the BIA and Town staff for this event,

In addition to these activities there will be a media blitz on social media and in the news. The Collingwood Public Library will provide easy connection to books for youth and adults about pollinators and native pollinator gardens for the week.

There will be a Biking for Butterflies event which will encourage the use of active transportation (biking, walking) to view local community and business native pollinator gardens.

Finally, an online story map showing local native pollinator gardens will be made available to the public via the Town of Collingwood website. This site is currently being worked on by a volunteer.

Pollinate Collingwood has an active facebook page where we provide education and resources to learn more about native plants and pollinators.

4. The Town of Collingwood's residential, community and business landscape will be changed by the presence of more native pollinator gardens. As a result there will be an increase in biodiversity within the community. More youth, adult residents, businesses and organizations will be aware of the importance of native pollinators and native pollinator gardens and play an active role in changing our Town's landscape.

The Town of Collingwood and the BIA will continue to care for their native pollinator gardens and the Town will commit to planting more native gardens each year.

Rehabilitation sites will continue to use native pollinator plants which will continue to increase local biodiversity and ecosystem health.

There will be a movement to increase naturalization in some parks, open space, and natural drainage areas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated to maintain these areas. As well leaving drainage areas naturalized will slow down the flow of water during storm events and reduce flooding.

The Town will continue to work within its commitment to plant native trees and shrubs as prescribed through the tree donation from the DiLorenzo Family.

The Town will begin work towards the creation and implementation of a formal Pollinator Protection Strategy.

5. Becoming a Bee City brings a commitment to the Town and the residents to be ecological stewards of our local spaces. Bringing more native plants to our landscapes, less pesticides and education to our youth, residents, businesses and organizations helps bees and other native pollinators source their nutrition and provide their habitat. In turn this helps sustainable food systems for our community, limits impacts from climate change and creates a community that works together to support the Town of Collingwood's movement to create an ecologically and socially sustainable community.